

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON ECONOMIC COUNCIL

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jefferson Economic Council, Colorado's oldest economic development agency. Early next month, the council will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The Jefferson Economic Council has worked tirelessly over the last half-century to brighten the future of Jefferson County businesses. And even after fifty years, the Council remains the premier business organization in Jefferson County, adapting to a rapidly changing economy. The council works with county government, cities, other economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, and the business community to create co-operation and common voice for business in the county.

Mr. Speaker, as the council is fond of saying, the greatest strength of any organization is its people. I believe that is true. The hard work and dedication of the members of this organization to improving the business climate and more generally building a better community over the last five decades have been invaluable contributions to the county that I—and many other Colorado residents and businesses—call home.

### HONORING POPE BENEDICT XVI

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as people of many faiths around the world celebrate the historic election of Pope Benedict XVI, we look toward His Holiness for faith and inspiration in addressing today's challenges and opportunities for peace and progress.

News of the Pontiff's election was greeted with great enthusiasm by many in the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, home to St. Benedict Parish on Chicago's Northwest side. The dedicated parishioners of St. Benedict are delighted that the Pope has selected the name of their patron saint and thus feel a special connection to him.

Since the sixth century, the Benedictine tradition reflected austerity and continuous pursuit of knowledge. These principles formed the cornerstone of Saint Benedict Parish, which was founded on the Northwest side of Chicago in 1902. The new parish was created to serve as an educational center for the area's burgeoning German Catholic population. Pope Benedict XVI, a longtime and learned university professor, has demonstrated a life-long commitment to excellence, wholly fitting the tradition of his namesake.

The Fifth District is also home to many people who share German ancestry with Pope Benedict XVI, who was born in Marktl am Inn, Germany. The parishioners of St. Benedict, St. Alphonsus and others have reason to be proud of the first Pope of German ancestry in nearly a millennium.

Pope Benedict XVI is endowed with great vision, intellect, and knowledge of the Church's rich history and tradition. He is further blessed by long service and loyalty to His Holiness, the late Pope John Paul II, whose divine wisdom and charisma set a shining example of leadership and guidance for all who follow him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the parishioners of St. Benedict, St. Alphonsus and indeed all of Chicago, I wish Pope Benedict XVI good health, longevity and success as the Bishop of Rome and leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

### ASTAR AIR CARGO EARNS MILITARY HONORS

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the employees and management of ASTAR Air Cargo, which is headquartered in my congressional district in Miami.

In April, the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command presented awards to 102 ASTAR Air Cargo employees who operated missions for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. The all-American ASTAR team was put together by John Dasburg, the Chairman, CEO, and President who is a Vietnam veteran. ASTAR is dedicated to providing superior service, and the U.S. military has chosen to recognize that publicly.

U.S. Air Force Major General Mark Volcheff, Director of Operations of the Air Mobility Command, presented the awards to the ASTAR employees.

These awards highlight the dedication of ASTAR employees who are devoted to serving our country in a time of war. Eight loadmasters and three pilots will receive the Aerial Achievement Medals for meritorious achievement during cargo flight missions. These individuals—Harrow Clyde, Thomas Coleman, Anthony Estrella, Steven Garrett, Frank Haidet, Frank Richmond, Philippe Verbrugghen, John Winters, Captain Stan Kahan, First Officer James Huddleston, and Second Officer Bernard Richardson—are being honored for flying at least seven missions during the conflicts. In addition to those medals, the Air Force will present 91 Certificates of Appreciation to ASTAR operations and maintenance employees who performed critical functions in support of those missions.

The Air Mobility Command provides strategic airlift and aerial refueling for all of Amer-

ica's armed forces. The individuals honored displayed commendable efforts in the missions. Without their dedication, such missions would not be possible.

ASTAR flies Department of Defense missions and charters for the Air Mobility Command. The awards presented demonstrate that, in addition to ASTAR's regularly scheduled and special air charter services, ASTAR is committed to supporting U.S. Armed Forces missions and troops in harm's way. ASTAR is also a participant in the United States Civil Reserve Air Fleet program supporting our national defense.

### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RUSSELL

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 25, 2005*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has become a source of inspiration for the citizens of Tuscola County, in my district. On May 13, the County's Human Development Commission will gather in Caro for their Annual Meeting, where they will also honor the accomplishments of one of their early pioneers, Mr. Robert Russell, for 35 years of dedicated service to the organization.

The Human Development Commission, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, represents the legacy of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Soon after its passage, Economic Opportunity Action Committees were established in Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties to explore the several possibilities made available by the Act. These committees formed the Human Development Commission on February 8, 1965, with a mission to "empower individuals and communities to identify their needs and secure resources necessary to achieve their goals of self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life."

Shortly after its inception, Bob Russell began his long and distinguished career with the HDC, highlighted by his leadership in various positions as a member of their Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and as a volunteer within various HDC programs. In addition, he represented his community as a member of the Vassar City Council for 10 years and the Tuscola County Commission for 18 years. Prior to this, he served his country proudly in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. All of the accomplishments aside, Bob is also, perhaps first and foremost, a loving husband, father and grandfather.

I am appreciative of Bob Russell's many years of leadership and for the untold number of individuals he has assisted, both personally and indirectly. He helped the agency and its customers overcome many obstacles and celebrate numerous successes. We will always be grateful for his willingness to be an original incorporator of the HDC and for his years of loyalty and dedication to its mission and vision.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.